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Letter dated 19 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/54/218) under agenda item 78 (c) of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters has groundlessly made an issue of the national defence-building of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, taking sides with forces hostile towards it. This constitutes a grave provocation against a sovereign State and an act to abuse the United Nations for sinister political objectives against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is an undeniable fact that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been under constant threat from the United States of America and other hostile forces for several decades. Therefore, our strengthening of our defence capability is an exercise of a sovereign right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Secretariat of the United Nations should get over its biased view of the question of the Korean Peninsula and observe the principle of impartiality, which is essential to its activities.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 78.

(*Signed*) **Li** Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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